

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method extracts all infinite ambiguity from an input finite-state transducer (FST). The input FST is factorized into a first factor and a second factor such that the first factor is finitely ambiguous, and the second factor retains all infinite ambiguity of  
5 the original FST. The first factor is defined so that it replaces every loop where the input symbol of every arc is an  $\varepsilon$  (i.e., epsilon, empty string) by a single arc with  $\varepsilon$  on the input side and a diacritic on the output side. The second factor is defined so that it maps every diacritic to one or more  $\varepsilon$ -loops.